



Dear Citizens,

When I became Mayor in January, I made a pledge to the citizens of Baltimore to make this city Cleaner, Greener, Safer & Healthier. It's been just over 100 days, and I've increasingly learned that each of these goals – Cleaner, Greener, Safer, and Healthier – is tied to each other. We are not likely to achieve one if we don't achieve the others as well.

I have already launched a major new Cleaner Baltimore initiative which includes hiring new staff, reorganizing agency responsibilities for more effective deployment of resources and enforcement, and initiating a series of "Deep Clean" operations to partner with communities that have chronic sanitation and dumping problems. A major public education campaign on fighting trash is in the works as well.

This week we celebrated Green Week, which is an ideal time for me to share my vision for Greening the City of Baltimore, and to ask for your help in achieving these goals. It will take each of us doing sometimes little things to make a big difference.

One important way to 'Green' the city is with Beautification, which includes adding more plantings and landscaping throughout the city. So far this year, I have launched several beautification initiatives:

- Release of the TreeBaltimore Urban Forestry Management Plan that calls for doubling our City's tree canopy over 30 years to achieve air and water quality benefits and to provide more wildlife habitat.
- Doubling the number of street trees we plant in the City this year.
- Giving away 1000 trees for free for residents to plant on their own properties
- Enhancing our gateways with new median plantings.
- Sprucing up all City buildings with new and revived flower beds and container plantings.
- Launching a Clean and Green Action Plan Program, where citizens can call our 311 system or click on a web site and request specific City assistance from the

Bureau of Solid Waste and the Dept. of Recreation and Parks in cleaning chronic trash problem areas and greening vacant lots and other spaces with tree plantings and community gardens

- Increasing the funding in the budget of Recreation and Parks to do more maintenance and enhancements at our major City Parks and along our Greenway Trails.
- Creating a new zoning category for park land and open space, to further protect our green assets in the City.

I am proud of all these Beautification efforts, and I think the citizens of Baltimore will see a difference as they travel our streets and neighborhoods in the coming months as a result of these initiatives.

But my concept of a Greener Baltimore goes well beyond just these beautification efforts. To me, a Greener Baltimore is a Healthier Baltimore – a Baltimore that conserves scarce resources, reduces air and water pollution and greenhouse gases, and functions as a place where all residents can live safe and healthy lives with access to quality education, health care, jobs and recreational opportunities.

In order to achieve this vision of a Cleaner, Greener, Safer and Healthier City, we all must work together. Saying that “we can’t do it alone” has almost become a cliché, but the truth is that partnerships are the way things get done and are sustained over time. I am creating an Office of Sustainability in the Department of Planning to work with stakeholders to develop a city-wide sustainability plan.

Of course, the critical link in this entire network of partnerships is the individual resident taking responsibility. Not everyone has the time or the ability to take the lead on a major initiative or to create a new organization. But every individual has the opportunity to make smaller choices that, collectively can have a huge impact: planting a tree on your property; cleaning up the trash in your alley; recycling that bottle rather than throw it away; using fluorescent bulbs rather than incandescent bulbs; and, picking up after your pet so that waste won’t wash down the storm drain and pollute the Bay.

Only by each of us doing our part, and working in partnership with friends and neighbors, will we achieve the vision of a Cleaner, Greener, Safer and Healthier City. I know we are up to the challenge.

As always, I am interested in what you think about our plan to make our city a dynamic place to LIVE, EARN, PLAY and LEARN. Please [email me](#) your comments or suggestions.

Sincerely,

Sheila Dixon  
Mayor  
Baltimore

## **Safe and Sound's Baltimore Opportunity Summit**

***650,000 People, 250 Neighborhoods, One Goal***

Do you want more opportunities available in your community?

This summit is the place to make your voice heard. It is time to be counted, one by one, as people who refuse to allow lawlessness or hopelessness to define our city. So come out and cast your vote to turn Baltimore into a city of opportunity for all!

Saturday, May 12, 2007  
12:00 Noon – 5:00 PM

Baltimore Convention Center – Hall G  
Pratt and Howard Streets  
(Take the Light Rail or Buses 3, 7, 19, 35)

For more information contact the Safe and Sound Campaign at (410) 625-7976, or visit them on the web at [www.safeandsound.org](http://www.safeandsound.org)

## **Cylburn's 2007 Market Day**

***Support Cylburn by purchasing vegetables,  
annual, perennials, azaleas, crafts and more***

***Saturday, May 12, 2007  
8:00 am – 4:00 pm***

Cylburn Arboretum  
4915 Greenspring Ave.  
Baltimore, MD 21209  
(410) 367-2217

Bring your little red wagon to load with super spring plants and crafts. Support Cylburn by purchasing vegetables, annual, perennials, azaleas, crafts and more. Also drop by on Sunday, May 13th for a day of workshops. The annual used book sale is a great place to pick up gardening, reference and popular fiction books. This is the spring plant and craft sale for Baltimore. This event is FREE and open to the public; parking is \$4 per car.

## **Want to Quit Smoking?**

***Call for Free Nicotine Patches and Gum***

Free nicotine patches and gum are available for people who want to quit smoking. If you are a Baltimore City resident and at least 18 years old, you may be eligible.

Call 1-800-QUIT-NOW.

Patches will be available for a limited time, so call now!

Please visit the [Baltimore City Health Department](#) for more information.

## **Activities for the Whole Family**

### **Special Events All Around Baltimore**

The Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks offers activities for city residents and guests - educational hikes and walks, sports leagues, youth and senior activities, and fun for the family.

Please visit [Rec & Parks' Events Calendar](#) for dates and times.



### **TV25: How Baltimore sees itself**

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